

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please change the title of the application to the following:

**ANTIMICROBIAL POLYMER-BASED FOODSTUFF CASING PREMOISTENED SO AS
TO BE READY-TO-FILL**

Please add the following headings and paragraph on page 1, immediately following the title:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a §371 national stage application of International Application No. PCT/EP03/007586 filed July 14, 2003 which claims priority to German Application No. 10231811.5 filed July 15, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

Please insert the following heading on page 1, after line 6:

Description of Related Art

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 2, after line 27:

EP-A 190 630 discloses a foodstuff casing, if appropriate fiber-reinforced, based on regenerated cellulose, on cellulose ethers, or on other hydrophilic polymers, with premoistening so as to be ready-to-fill, using at least 40% by weight of water. In order to protect the casing from infestation by bacteria, mold fungi, or other microorganisms, it has been treated with an antimycotic agent. The agent is preferably an alkyl para-hydroxybenzoate.

US-A 3 864 499 also describes a casing composed of film-forming, hydrophilic polymers, in particular of regenerated cellulose. Dispersed within the polymers there are oil-

soluble additives, in particular antioxidants, biocides, dyes, UV absorbers, flavors, or aromas. A cellulose sausage casing is also disclosed and comprises an antimycotic agent approved under foodstuffs legislation. The antimycotic agent is preferably methyl, ethyl, or propyl para-hydroxybenzoate.

DE 196 25 094 discloses a shirred stick composed of a single- or multilayer, biaxially oriented and heat-set, tubular polyamide-based foodstuff casing. Prior to shirring, the casing is sprayed with a solution which comprises an emulsifier, and preferably also comprises a bactericide, which is not characterized in further detail, and a lubricant.

Please insert the following heading on page 3, after line 5:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading on page 3, after line 15:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT